

Message Text

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46

ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 CIAE-00 CU-02 INR-05 NSAE-00 RSC-01 USIE-00

EUR-12 OIC-02 IOE-00 NEA-06 ISO-00 INRE-00 SSO-00

NSCE-00 SS-15 NSC-05 L-02 SP-02 SAM-01 PRS-01 PA-01

OMB-01 TRSE-00 ABF-01 /068 W
----- 103327

O 181911Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5259

INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 30406

NESCO

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG, UNESCO, XF

SUBJECT: UNESCO DIRECTOR GENERAL TO MEET WITH KING
FAYSAL

1. US PERMDEL HAS BEEN INFORMED THAT THE NEWLY EL-
ECTED DIRECTOR GENERAL OF UNESCO, AMADOU MOHTAR M'BOW
(SENGALESE), WILL MAKE A SHORT VISIT TO SAUDI ARABIA TO
MEET KING FAYSAL BEGINNING DEC. 20. THE VISIT
HAD BEEN SCHEDULED WELL IN ADVANCE OF THE CONTROVERSY
ARISING FROM ANTI-ISRAELI MEASURES VOTED BY MEMBER-STATES
AT THE RECENT 18TH UNESCO GENERAL CONFERENCE, MOST
NOTABLY CUT-OFF OF SOME FUNDS TO THE GOI .

2. HOWEVER, THE FAYSAL-M'BOW CONVERSATIONS ARE CERTAIN
TO INCLUDE CONSIDERATION OF THE INTENSE REACTION AGAINST
UNESCO OF AMERICAN AND WESTERN EUROPEAN PUBLIC OPINION
RESULTING FROM THESE DECISIONS, PARTICULARLY PROPOSED
CUT-OFF IN PART OR WHOLE OF ASSESSED CONTRIBUTIONS TO
UNESCO BY NATIONAL LEGISLATURES IN THE US, FRANCE AND
SWITZERLAND.

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3. PERMDEL WOULD GREATLY APPRECIATE ANY INFORMATION, IN ADDITION TO PRESS COMMUNIQUE, ON THE SUBSTANCE OF THE FAYSAL-M'BOW CONVERSATIONS.

4. FYI JIDDA: M'BOW IS A DEVOUT MOSLEM LEADER IN HIS HOME COUNTRY. SAUDIS MAY BE CRUCIAL TO ANY SOFTENING OF THE ARAB HARD-LINE STANCE TAKEN ON THE JERUSALEM EXCAVATIONS ISSUE AT THE RECENTLY ENDED UNESCO GENERAL CONFERENCE AND THEREFORE TO INCREASING M'BOW'S MANEUVERABILITY IN EFFORTS TO SOFTEN THE TONE AND SUBSTANCE IN THE ACTUAL IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS AND OTHER GENERAL CONFERENCE DECISIONS. M'BOW HAS ALSO PUBLICLY INDICATED THAT UNESCO WOULD NEED NO-INTEREST LOANS FROM MEMBER-STATES IN THE EVENT OF "LATE" PAYMENT OF SOME MEMBERS' ASSESSMENTS.
RUSH

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